

MEDICAL AND HEALTH AGENCY NEWS

The Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities will meet in annual conference in the Yosemite Valley from August 16 to 20, 1926.

Mortality statistics of the hospital patients was discussed by the Saint Francis Hospital Clinical Society at the June meeting.

The obligation to explain the death of a patient to one's colleagues is calculated to promote the careful study, diagnosis and treatment that all patients are entitled to.

The Medical Library Association held its twenty-ninth annual meeting at Ann Arbor recently. Sixty medical libraries from all parts of the United States sent delegates; Mary E. Irish, Barlow Medical Library, Los Angeles, represented California at the meeting.

Officers of the association for the ensuing year are: John H. Ruhräh, Baltimore, president; Harvey Cushing, Boston, vice-president; Miss Biethan, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, secretary; and Miss Loomis, Northwestern University, Chicago, treasurer.

Mrs. Irish has supplied us with a report of the meeting, which should have a great interest for members of the medical profession because the keynote was not what is of the greatest advantage to the librarian, but how can the librarian best serve the medical profession in obtaining and making available the greatest and best material for practical and scientific use or research?

The American Hospital Association announces the removal of its offices from 22 East Ontario Street to 18-20 East Division Street, Chicago.

The 1926 meeting will be held at Atlantic City, September 27 to October 1. William H. Walsh is executive secretary.

The Pacific Northwest Medical Association recently held a most successful meeting at Spokane. These meetings are attracting much attention because of the splendid way they are organized down to the last detail and because prominent invited physicians, many of them experienced teachers of medicine, take leading places on their programs.

Invited speakers at the recent meeting included Hans Lissner, San Francisco, who spoke and gave a clinic on Endocrine subjects; Howard Naffziger, San Francisco, addresses and clinics on Surgical Neurology subjects; Karl F. Meyer, San Francisco, who discussed local immunity and Tetanus; George Dock, Pasadena, who spoke on Neuropathies, Anemias, and conducted a medical clinic. Dock also spoke on "Modern Trends in Medicine" at a banquet, of which it is said—well, it won't be forgotten.

Exophthalmic Goiter in Childhood—Thirty cases of exophthalmic goiter occurring in children less than 15 years old are reviewed by Henry F. Helmholtz, Rochester, Minn. (Journal A. M. A.). Compound solution of iodine, administered in doses of from 5 to 10 minims (0.3 to 0.6 cc.) three times a day, reduced the basal metabolic rates and toxic symptoms very markedly. It made preliminary operations unnecessary in the last eleven cases. Of twenty-four patients operated on, two died, one in crisis twenty-four hours after operation and the other from bronchopneumonia one week after operation. The duration of the symptoms, which varied from six months to eight years, indicates that frequently this disease is not recognized early or its seriousness is not appreciated. The patients came largely from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, in the order named. Tachycardia was noted in 100 per cent of the cases. The thyroid gland was definitely enlarged in all but two cases. All but two patients complained of nervousness. Emotional instability was perhaps the most marked feature. Exophthalmos was definite in twenty-five of the thirty cases, and in one of the remaining five there was the characteristic stare.

READERS' FORUM

Dear Editor—Another kick—no, not at *us*, but at the Government, or its administrators.

Why, in the name of all that is holy, should it be necessary for a reputable physician to send a "certified check" in payment of the measly \$1 Narcotic Tax fee? In this day and generation, when a man's check is ordinarily worth 100 cents on the dollar in any part of our country, it looks as if the Collector of Internal Revenue was putting something over on us. If it is not merely a local rule, the matter should be taken up with the Department in Washington, D. C., and satisfactorily adjusted. It is merely another instance of jamming us. Now everybody *holler*!

Yours groaningly,

(Signed) WILLIAM A. ROWELL.

P. S.—What could they do if one enclosed a \$1 bill—legal tender all over these United States?

San Francisco, June 30, 1926.

Dear Editor—writes a prominent non-medical man—"Today I listened to a radio talk by Mrs. A. Yuille (KFWM) on the responsibility of doctors for drug addiction, and it should be called to your attention.

"She quoted from Doctor Blair in the 'Survey' and charged the profession with 'majority of 75 per cent of the addiction which exists at present.' The whole talk was a defamation of the honor and integrity of the profession, and her statements were not in accordance with the facts and absolutely untrue."

This is a fair sample of many complaints about the misleading and even false propaganda that seems to constitute an increasing amount of the stuff of which some radio programs are made.

Los Angeles, California, July 14, 1926.

Dear Editor—The low esteem in which a noble and honorable profession is held by certain classes in the community is due to a variety of causes. In my humble opinion, the most potent of these is the habit of uttering in semi-private or semi-public occasions derogatory remarks concerning our fellow practitioners.

Another potent cause of this deplorable condition is the failure on the part of many doctors to uphold and defend the noble profession to which they have the high honor of belonging, against insidious and dastardly attacks.

To our shame, it is sad to relate, occasionally these attacks emanate, not from our avowed enemies, but from thoughtless members of our own profession.

A glaring instance of this occurred recently under my own personal observation. The circumstances were as follows: A doctor standing ahead of me in the line of applicants for renewal of the Harrison Narcotic License, in the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, after filling out the inventory said in a loud voice, "Why, I use very few narcotics in my practice, but my competitors buy them by the thousand."

Can you imagine anything more disloyal and more despicable?

Another instance occurred a few months ago, at a regular meeting of a County Medical Society assembled to hear talks from the prohibition director and his associates.

In the course of the discussion which followed, in answer to an adroit question propounded by the prohibition director, a doctor calmly confessed, to the utter astonishment of all present, that about 99 per cent of all his whisky prescriptions were fraudulent. Anyone familiar with the psychology of the average doctor knew that this answer was given in a jocular spirit of bravado. It was to be taken with several grains of salt.

At a large meeting of a woman's club held a few days later, the prohibition director cited this to show

how little respect the average doctor has for the Eighteenth Amendment.

Despite the fact that for nobility of character and pure unselfishness the medical profession stands unrivaled, we must remember that we are in the land of the Philistines.

Yours truly,
JOHN C. COPELAND, M. D.

M. O. R. C.

California still lacks about 42 per cent, or 519, of its Medical Reserve Officer quota. Utah, which has responded 122 per cent, is now engaged in enrolling more officers to help make up the deficiencies of some of its sister states.

During June the changes in our territory were as follows:

	New Medical Officers Commissioned	New Applications Received
California	19	22
Utah	2	1
Nevada	0	0

The status of the entire Ninth Corps area is shown in this table:

	No. of physicians registered	No. of Medical Re- serve Officers each state should furnish	No. of Medical Of- ficers enrolled	Percentage enrolled of total required
California	7,549	1,243	724	58.24
Washington	1,756	289	187	64.70
Oregon	1,158	191	164	85.81
Montana	568	94	99	105.31
Utah	497	82	100	121.94
Idaho	452	75	45	60.00
Wyoming	263	43	36	83.72
Nevada	140	23	10	43.3
Alaska	60	10	2	20.0
Total	12,443	2,050	1,367	66.68

FUTURE MEDICAL MEETINGS

All Western medical and health agency organizations are invited to keep California and Western Medicine supplied with the dates, name and address of executive officer of coming meetings for insertion in this directory.

American Medical Association, Washington, D. C., May 16-20, 1927. Olin West, Chicago, Secretary and General Manager.

California Medical Association, Los Angeles, April 25-28, 1927. Emma W. Pope, Balboa Building, Secretary.

Nevada Medical Association, Reno, Nevada, September 24-25. Horace J. Brown, Reno, Secretary.

Utah Medical Association, Salt Lake City, —. Frank B. Steele, Salt Lake City, Secretary.

Pacific Coast Surgical Association, Del Monte, February, 1927. Edgar L. Gilcreest, San Francisco, Secretary.

Pacific Northwest Medical Association, —. Frederick Epplen, Spokane, Secretary.

Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society, San Francisco, —. Kaspar Pischel, San Francisco, President.

Northern California Medical Association, Woodland, —. John D. Lawson, Woodland, Secretary.

California Association of Physiotherapists, Los Angeles, April 25-28, 1927. Miss Mabel Penfield, 560 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Secretary.

Southern California Medical Association, Los Angeles, —. C. T. Sturgeon, 1136 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, Secretary.

California Association of Medical Social Workers, Los Angeles, April 25-28, 1927. Mrs. Sophie Mersing, Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, Secretary.

Medical Women's National Association, Chicago, —. Lena K. Sadler, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Secretary.

California State Nurses' Association, —. Mrs. J. T. Taylor, 74 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Secretary.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division, —. W. W. Sargent, Secretary.

American College of Surgeons, Clinical Congress, Montreal, October 25-29, 1926. Franklin H. Martin, Chicago, Director-General.

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM

Another instance of fraud in the making of doctors was recently uncovered by the Board of Medical Examiners following a thorough investigation of the credentials of Ralph M. Putnam, who, according to his application to the California Board, pursued his freshman, sophomore, and junior years of medical study at the University of Vermont, then going to the University of Southern California. There, according to his statement, he presented a fraudulent transcript showing completion of the first three years of medical study at the University of Vermont.

When called before Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, secretary of the California Board, for an explanation of the discrepancies in his professional record, Putnam confessed that through a friend who had access to the office records of the University of Vermont, he obtained a blank record transcript with the seal of the college attached, and that Putnam thereon wrote in his own statement of credits for three years' medical study. This statement, apparently bona fide, was accepted by the University of Southern California. After Putnam had completed his senior year in that institution he was granted a diploma conferring upon him the degree of doctor of medicine, dated June 17, 1920.

The records of the Board of Medical Examiners of Massachusetts showed that Putnam failed in the written examination in that state in November, 1920, March, May and July, 1921, and March and July, 1922. He is also reported as having failed the Connecticut examination, July, 1923, neither of these states having discovered the irregularities in Doctor Putnam's credentials.

The Putnam case is similar to that of Charles Barnard, who claimed on his application to the California Board that he was a graduate of the Atlanta Medical College, and explained his failure to produce a diploma of said institution by stating that he had placed his medical diploma on a mail box, said diploma being addressed to the Board of Medical Examiners, and had thereafter lost all track of said diploma. When confronted with the report by Secretary Pinkham that Atlanta Medical College disclaimed his graduating, Barnard acknowledged that he had not graduated from said medical college and that his story in connection with his diploma was untrue. Some time later it was learned that Barnard claimed a diploma issued by the Oriental University of Washington, D. C., whose president and owner, Bishop Hollar, was recently reported as having been given a prison sentence in connection with the Federal investigation of the recent activities of the diploma mills.

The value of the annual registration feature of the Medical Practice Act recently has again been demonstrated when an individual named David Franklin requested the Board of Medical Examiners to issue him a duplicate certificate, claiming that he had lost the original and that his medical credentials had been burned in the San Francisco fire of 1906.

In line with our usual policy, we requested this individual to submit an affidavit covering salient facts. We learned through this affidavit submitted by Franklin that he claimed (1) graduation from the Medical Department, University of the City of New York, 1878; (2) to have been licensed in California the year following; (3) that he had practiced in California almost continuously since 1879.

A thorough investigation developed the interesting story that Franklin's real name is Oscar (not David); that he was alleged to have been prosecuted for violation of the Medical Practice Act in Geneva, Nevada, some years ago, he leaving there rather suddenly; that for many years he had been practicing in California under the credentials of the bona fide David Franklin (1) who did graduate from the University of the City of New York in 1878; (2) thereafter became prominently identified with medical matters in New York City, affiliated with various medical organizations and hospitals, and (3) died in New York City in 1903, following an operation for appendicitis.

Prior to the passing of the annual registration law it was not possible to check up on cases of this kind, it